

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held virtually on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Joe Aulik, Jim Haskins, Joan Brusky

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**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting began at 4:34 pm. It should be noted that there was not a quorum and no action was taken, however, informal discussion was held on the agenda items.

**2. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

*No action taken.*

**3. Approve/Modify Minutes of October 20, 2020.**

*No action taken.*

**4. Budget Status Financial Report for September 2020.**

*No action taken.*

**5. Invocation.**

Jim Haskins gave the invocation at this time.

**6. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.**

CVSO Joe Aulik informed there have not been any changes to the Honor Rewards program, but every time he interacts with any business, he makes them aware of the program so they can join if they are interested.

**7. Discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Fair.**

Aulik referenced an e-mail the subcommittee received from Louise Dahlke. Dahlke noted in the e-mail that they hope to have a more normal Fair in 2021 and the recognition day for veterans will be held on Sunday. She will keep the committee updated of developments with regard to the fair and will have more information in January and February.

**8. Discussion Regarding Veterans Day 2020.**

Aulik referenced the event at the Museum which was attended by about 30 people. The ceremony outside also had a good group in attendance. These ceremonies can be viewed on the Veteran's Service Office Facebook page. Aulik continued that the list put together by this group was well distributed. Haskins advised Aulik that A Stitch In Time should be eliminated from the list as they are no longer in business. He also mentioned that the listing for Happy

Joe's did not list the hours their offer was valid. Haskins said the spread in the newspaper was great – it was a 1 ½ page spread broken down by categories and he thanked Joan Brusky for the work she did in verifying the offers listed and Aulik for getting the article to the newspaper. Haskins also talked about some of the offers he participated in.

**9. Report from CVSO Joe Aulik.**

Aulik informed they are exceeding \$3.7 million dollars in retro payments. Last year at this time they were at \$2.7 million dollars. The office has been very busy and there is a lot of activity. Aulik said to get to the point they are at, they need to have activity, marketing and outreach. The office had a goal of \$3.6 million dollars this year. He said the big dollars come from disability claims.

With regard to staffing, they had one FTE that resigned for medical reasons so they are looking to fill that position and have received about 25 applications. Aulik explained how everyone in the office is cross trained so when someone leaves, there is someone who can help with the responsibilities of the vacant position so there is no lapse in service. They make sure that someone can step right into anyone's role, so the veterans do not have to wait for services and they can keep the cycle moving. Aulik shared some stories about veterans he has helped recently and how they get to a point where their lives seem to be crushing in on them. Aulik and his staff are able to show these veterans that there is a way out of the turmoil and they do everything they can to help these veterans focus on their physical and mental health and get them back to a decent quality of life.

Brusky asked if there are situations where someone may be receiving benefits for mental health issues and then improve and have their benefits reduced. Aulik says that does happen, but it is rare. He talked about a veteran he has seen recently who went from 90% disabled from PTSD to 50% disabled because he is getting better.

Aulik also informed that the Packers have reached out to him to do a needy veteran handout event. They will be providing 300 duffle bags which will include a ham, some Packer items and other things as well as veteran marketing items so the recipients can learn about the services provided by the Veterans' Service Office so they can reach out when they need to. Brusky asked how the veterans are selected for this. Aulik responded that typically his office knows who is struggling and may need help. There are no specific qualifiers, but typically veterans are pretty honest and not looking to take advantage of things they do not need.

**10. Report from Committee Members Present (Brusky, Corry, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Metoxen, Pierce, Polus).**

-Brusky did not have anything to share, but thanked Aulik for all his work.

-Haskins talked about a Barrett-Jackson car auction he watched recently in which a rare 2020 Corvette was auctioned off for \$370,000, all of which is going to Heartstrings, a music program for veterans. Haskins also noted that Starbucks employs a lot of veterans and 10 cents from the sale of every cup of coffee sold by Starbucks goes to help veterans.

**11. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

A discussion regarding the next meeting date was held and it was decided to not meet in December and January. The next meeting of this subcommittee will be held on February 16, 2021.

**12. Adjourn.**

Because there was no quorum at this meeting, a motion was not made to adjourn, but the group concluded their discussion at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Administrative Specialist